

Thank You to Chairman Redfield and to the Committee for listening to us today.

EXHIBIT # 6
DATE 3/24/15
SB 176

I am Mike Choriki from Billings MT. I am the owner of B&C Ag Consultants. We have a soil testing lab and a crop consulting business. We work with farmers, ranchers, landowners and homeowners (#voters) in 43 counties across the state. My father Ray Choriki always looked for ways to increase crop production and improve soil health. Dad was the soil research man at Moccasin from 1958 until 1971, when he opened the first Agricultural Testing Laboratory in the Northern Great Plains. He helped thousands of Montanans become smarter farmers, better ranchers and master gardeners until his death last fall. I've been a student of soils since I was 10 years old. Soil is my passion. Dad's advice was to study soils and agronomy in college. He said you have to know what is going on below the ground, to understand what is happening on top of the ground.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN projects that the world population will exceed 9 billion people by the year 2050. They estimate that food production must increase by 70% to meet the demand. These are reasons why 2015 was declared the "International Year of Soil". The leaders of the UN want the world to recognize the importance of the soil that we depend on to feed the people. The Resolution notes "that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence are the key to sustaining life on Earth"⁽¹⁾

We've been asked to double our food, feed and meat production in the next 35 years. We will push limits of production by using knowledge, technology and good science.

The United Nations dedicated a year and declared a world soil day to spread the message that soil is essential to our existence on earth. We need to spread the message right here at home by designating the Scobey Series as our state soil and making it a state symbol. This will open doors to outreach, education and cooperation to build a better Montana for future generations.

Unfortunately we do not see soil when we drive down the highway. But we all enjoy seeing the trees, grass, animals and crops that it supports.

Our soil is the most valuable natural resource we have in Montana and it is the least recognized. If you like to eat food, wear clothes and live in a house, then now I hope you share my passion for soil.



World Soil Day 2014

Soils have been neglected for too long. We fail to connect soil with our food, water, climate, biodiversity and life. We must invert this tendency and take up some preserving and restoring actions. The World Soil Day campaign aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.

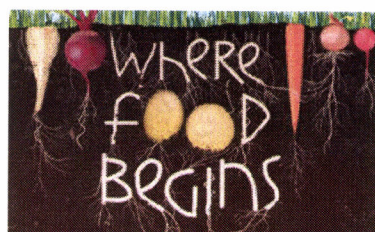
Did you know?

Soil is the basis for food, feed, fuel and fibre production and for services to ecosystems and human well-being. It is the reservoir for at least a quarter of global biodiversity, and therefore requires the same attention as above-ground biodiversity. Soils play a key role in the supply of clean water and resilience to floods and droughts. The largest store of terrestrial carbon is in the soil so that its preservation may contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The maintenance or enhancement of global soil resources is essential if humanity's need for food, water, and energy security is to be met.

Audio interviews

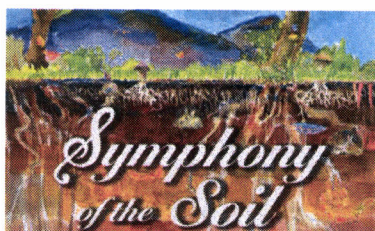
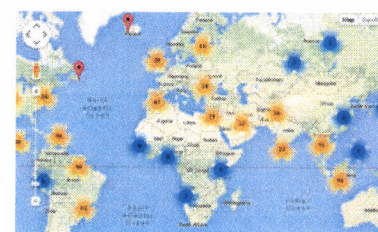


World Soil Day FLICKR photogallery



Check out our **campaign material**: Posters, Postcards, Infographics, T-shirt templates and much more.

Events and celebrations are taking place around the world. If you are organizing an event to celebrate the World Soil Day, do not forget to **register it online**.



Be ready, for a week beginning December 5th through December 12th, the Documentary Symphony of the Soil will be video streamed for free. **More**